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Improving maternal outcome in rural Tanzania using obstetric simulation-based training

Nelissen, E.J.T.

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Ellen Johanna Theodora Nelissen was born in Heerlen on the 19th of October 1979. She graduated from the Raaijland College in Venray in 1998 after which she moved to Barcelona to study Spanish. From 1999 to 2006 she studied Medicine at the University of Utrecht. During her medical study she competed in rowing at national and international level and completed internships in Curaçao, Mexico, and Tanzania. After graduating she started training in tropical medicine at the IJsselmeergebiedziekenhuizen in Lelystad, which included one year of obstetrics and gynaecology (supervised by Dr. Kees de Boer) and one year of surgery (supervised by Dr. Gijs Algie). With the achievement of a diploma in tropical medicine and international health at the Royal Tropical Institute in Amsterdam, she completed her tropical medicine training in 2009. That same year she relocated to Haydom, a small village in rural Northern Tanzania, to work as medical officer on the maternity ward of Haydom Lutheran Hospital. During her stay in Haydom she started the research that is published in this thesis. In November 2010 she was granted a stipend from the Laerdal Foundation for Acute Medicine (Stavanger, Norway) that allowed her to expand her research activities and pursue a PhD at the Athena Institute of the VU University Amsterdam (supervised by Prof. Jacqueline Broerse, Prof. Jos van Roosmalen, and Dr. Jelle Stekelenburg). Ellen moved to Bristol in the United Kingdom in January 2013, where she was allowed to continue her research at the RISQ office in Southmead Hospital (led by Prof. Tim Draycott). In August 2014 she started training in obstetrics and gynaecology at the Severn Deanery. Ellen lives in Bristol with her fiancé Alvin Schadenberg.

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